

501.39812VV2

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. YAMAZAKI, et al.
Serial No.: 10/639,465
Filed: AUGUST 13, 2003
Title: FABRICATION METHOD FOR SEMICONDUCTOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE
Group AU: 1763
Examiner: George A. Goudreau
Confirm. No.: 6745

RESPONSE

Mail Stop: AMEND – FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

January 13, 2006

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2005, the period for response having been extended for three (3) months by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, Applicants respectfully elect species 1), that is, Ar used as the first gas. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-19 and 21-29 read on the elected species.

In addition, the undersigned notes the statement by the Examiner that claims 1, 2, 5-18 and 21-29 are generic. Upon allowance of any one of the generic claims, it is respectfully submitted that the non-elected species must be re-joined in the above-identified application, and that claims directed thereto are to be allowed in the above-identified application, together with claims directed to the elected species.

In view of the foregoing, examination of claims reading on Species 1), that is, claims 1-3, 5-19 and 21-29, in due course, is respectfully requested.

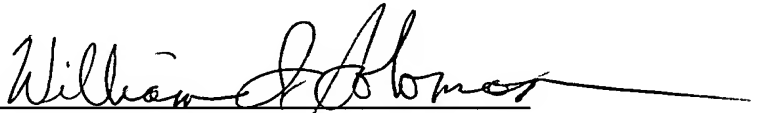
January 13, 2006

Applicants request any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 501.39812VV2), and credit any excess payment of fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By



William I. Solomon

Registration No. 28,565

WIS/ksh
1300 N. Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel: 703-312-6600
Fax: 703-312-6666